

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-20 STR-08

CEA-02 DODE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /163 W

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R 211321Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO AMCONSUL MUNICH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4801

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 15929

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON PINR

SUBJ: SOVIET CAR PRICES

REF: A) MUNICH 2195; B) MOSCOW 15529; C) MOSCOW 15862

1. PRICES POSTED AT MOSCOW'S SINGLE RETAIL AUTOMOBILE
OUTLET REMAIN AS FOLLOWS:

ZAPORZHETS 966 - 3000 RUBLES

ZAPOROSHETS 966B - 3500 RUBLES

MOSKVICH 412 - 4936 RUBLES

MOSKVICH 412 V - 5093 RUBLES

ZHIGULI (VAZ) 2101 - 5500 RUBLES

VOLGA (GAZ) 24 - 9150 RUBLES

IN ADDITION, ZHIGULI 2102 STATION WAGON (PRICE: APPROXIMATELY

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6000 RUBLES) AND 2103 (PRICE: 7500 RUBLES) ARE ALSO
AVAILABLE TO SOVIET BUYERS. ZHIGULI 2103, WHICH

APPEARED EARLIER THIS YEAR, IS MORE LUXURIOUS AND POWERFUL
VERSION OF 2101 (BASIC FOUR-DOOR SEDAN).

2. ABOVE-QUOTED PRICES ARE CURRENTLY IN EFFECT, AND
VARIOUS SOVIET CONTACTS HAVE GIVEN NO INDICATION OF IMPENDING
PRICE INCREASES, ALTHOUGH RUMORS ARE WIDESPREAD IN MOSCOW OF PRICE
INCREASES IN COMSUMER SECTOR IN GENERAL. (COMMENT: ZHIGULI PRICE
INCREASE CITED IN REFTEL A COULD IN FACT BE SIMPLY COST
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 2010 AND 2013 MODELS. END COMMENT)
HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF OTHER RECENT PRICE RISES (SEE
REFTELS B AND C), WE DO NOT FIND IT TOTALLY UNLIKELY
THAT HIGH DEMAND ITEM SUCH AS AUTOMOBILE COULD ALSO BE
SUBJECT TO PRICE HIKE. AS DEMAND FOR CARS REMAINS
VIRTUALLY INELASTIC, AUTHORITIES PRESUMABLY CONFIDENT
THAT PRICES COULD BE INCREASED WITHOUT REDUCING SALES.
IF PRICES ARE RAISED, JAN 1 WOULD BE LIKELY DATE.
EMBASSY WILL CONDUCT FURTHER CHECKS AT THAT TIME AND
REPORT RESULTS.
SOMMERLATTE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Declassified/Released
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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